

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8369

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4926

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA

SUBJ: AGRO: OUTLINE DISCUSSED BY SAUDI WORKING GROUP

REF : A. STATE 186407; B. STATE 179808

BEGIN SUMMARY: SAUDI WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE HAS HELD FIRST MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR SEPTEMBER JOINT CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. THE ENTIRE GAMUT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WAS DISCUSSED, INCLUDING TRAINING, WATER RESOURCES, NATIONAL POLICIES ON LAND RESOURCES, AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE, RESEARCH, EXTENSION, LAND MANAGEMENT AND MECHANIZATION. WAYS OF ENCOURAGING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE EFFORTS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS A PRELIMINARY AGENDA THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH THE SAUDI TEAM OR THE COORDINATOR BEFORE ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICAN TEAM. END SUMMARY.

1. ECON COUNSELOR MET WITH DR. SOLAIMAN SOLAIM, COORDINATOR OF THE SAUDI WORKING GROUPS, WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED AN OUTLINE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED ON AUGUST 14 AT FIRST MEETING OF SAUDI AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP IN RIYADH. THE THREE-PAGE OUTLINE INDICATES THAT VERY FEW SUBJECTS ARE BEING LEFT OUT OF THEIR THINKING. A BRIEF SUMMARY OF

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OUTLINE FOLLOWS:

A. ASSISTANCE IN FINALIZING NATIONAL POLICIES ON AGRI-CULTURE WITH EMPHASIS ON ALLOCATION OF LAND RESOURCES AND PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE RESERVES.

B. ASSISTANCE IN SECTORAL PLANNING, NATIONAL WATER PLAN, ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATA BANK, MANPOWER AND TRAINING, INCLUDING COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND TRAINING CENTERS. DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS FOR ON THE JOB TRAINING, MARKETING AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND CREDIT, AND FOR COORDINATION WITH CENTRAL PLANNING ON PRODUCTION PLANS.

C. WATER RESOURCES, MANAGEMENT, DESALINATION, CLOUD SEEDING, WATER IMPORTATION (THIS LAST MAY BE USING TANKERS RETURNING FROM JAPAN OR OTHER AREAS).

D. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: DRY LAND INSTITUTE COMBINED WITH ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION AND A JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM WITH A U.S. INSTITUTION. CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE.

3. EXTENSION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

F. LAND MANAGEMENT AND SOIL CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION.

G. AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS FOR REGIONAL PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN CROPS AND LIVESTOCK. PLANT AND ANIMAL DISEASES AND CONTROL MEASURES. FARM MECHANIZATION.

H. ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES AND ENCOURAGING TRADE MISSIONS AND PROCURING MATERIALS THAT MAY BE IN SHORT SUPPLY.

2. FURTHER MEETINGS OF SAUDI AGRICULTURE GROUP ARE SCHEDULED. BIOGRAPHICS TRANSMITTED BY TELEX ALREADY, THOUGH THERE MAY BE ADDITIONS. REQUEST IF POSSIBLE EMBASSY HAVE REACTIONS TO ABOVE AND SUGGESTIONS FROM AMERICAN SIDE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH TAHER OBAID.

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3. BIO RESUMES ON SAUDI SCITECH GROUP WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER.

4. STATUS REPORT GIVEN US BY DR. SOLAIM ON REVISED TECH ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT DRAFT (REFTEL B REQUEST) WHICH WAS SUBMITTED, FULLY TRANSLATED, TO FORNMIN AUG 19 WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL.

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